

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

V.

CIVIL ACTION

No.

THE BLACK & DECKER CORPORATION,  
BLACK & DECKER, INC., BLACK & DECKER  
(U.S.) INC., EMHART CORPORATION, and  
EMHART, INC.,

Defendants.

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, makes the following allegations against defendants, The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker, Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation, and Emhart Industries, Inc., with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims.

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company makes these allegations pursuant to the March 19, 2004 Order of the Court in the case styled Liberty Mutual Insurance Company v. The Black & Decker Corporation, et al., C.A. No. 96-10804-DPW, which directed the parties to restate the claims and defenses with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims which were originally pled in the pleadings filed in C. A. No. 96-10804 prior to March 19, 2004, and declared that the allegations, claims and defenses filed in the instant new lawsuit relate back in their entirety to the original pleadings filed in C.A. No. 96-10804.

Plaintiff, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, for its Complaint against defendants, The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation, and Emhart Industries, Inc., alleges with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company (“Liberty Mutual”), is a mutual insurance company organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with its principal place of business at 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

2. Defendant, The Black & Decker Corporation (“Black & Decker”), is a corporation organized pursuant to the laws of the state of Maryland. Black & Decker is registered to do business in Massachusetts, and maintains a place of business at 12 Market Street, Brighton, Massachusetts. Black & Decker’s principal place of business is located at 701 East Joppa Road, Towson, Maryland.

3. Defendant, Black & Decker, Inc. (“B&DI”), is a corporation organized pursuant to the laws of Delaware. B&DI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Black & Decker, which maintains a place of business at 12 Market Street, Brighton, Massachusetts, and has its principal place of business in Newark, Delaware.

4. Defendant, Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. (“B&DUS”), is a corporation organized pursuant to the laws of Maryland. B&DUS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Black & Decker, which maintains a place of business at 12 Market Street,

Brighton, Massachusetts, and has its principal place of business in Towson, Maryland.

5. Defendant, Emhart Corporation (“Emhart”), is a corporation organized pursuant to the laws of Virginia. Emhart is a wholly-owned subsidiary of defendant B&DI, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of defendant Black & Decker, which maintains a place of business at 12 Market Street, Brighton, Massachusetts, and has its principal place of business in Towson, Maryland. Emhart is the parent corporation of defendant Emhart Industries, Inc.

6. Defendant, Emhart Industries, Inc. (“Emhart Industries”), is a corporation organized pursuant to the laws of Connecticut. Emhart Industries is a wholly-owned subsidiary of defendant Emhart, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of defendant Black & Decker, which maintains a place of business at 12 Market Street, Brighton, Massachusetts, and has its principal place of business in Towson, Maryland.

7. During various time periods relevant to the subject matter of this action, defendants have owned or controlled the following subsidiaries and/or divisions, and/or, on information and belief, have succeeded to their liabilities:

a. USM Corporation. USM Corporation (“USM”), formerly known as the United Shoe Machinery Corporation, was acquired by an Emhart subsidiary in 1976, and was merged into defendant Emhart Industries in 1987. From the early 1900’s until 1976, USM maintained its principal place of business in Boston, Massachusetts.

b. Bailey Division of USM Corporation. USM manufactured automotive products through its Bailey Division in Amesbury, Massachusetts and Seabrook, New Hampshire during the period from at least 1970 to 1982. The USM Bailey Division also maintained a plant in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, during said period. Pursuant to a Purchase & Sale Agreement dated September 3, 1982, USM sold the business and assets of the Bailey Division to the Bailey Corporation. USM retained certain liabilities under the Purchase & Sale Agreement pertaining to its Bailey Division, and Emhart Industries succeeded to those liabilities.

c. Bostik Division of USM Corporation. During the period from at least 1969 to 1989, the Bostik Division of USM engaged (under various names, such as Bostik, Upco, Girder, Crown Metro Inc., and Finch Paint & Chemical) in the manufacture of adhesives, sealants, coatings, and other specialty chemical products. In October 1989 B&DI sold the assets and business of the Bostik Division, but retained certain liabilities.

d. J. C. Rhodes & Co. Division of USM Corporation. During the period 1917 to May 25, 1956, J. C. Rhodes & Co. was a division of USM, manufacturing metal shoe eyelets in New Bedford, Massachusetts. USM sold the assets and business of its J. C. Rhodes & Co. Division to Plymouth Cordage Company in 1956. Plymouth Cordage Company merged with the company now known as Emhart Industries in 1966, and in 1975, the company now known as Emhart Industries sold the business and assets of the J. C. Rhodes Division of Emhart Industries to PCI Group, Inc., but retained certain liabilities.

e. Farrel Machinery Group. The Farrel Company, also known as Farrel Corporation, became the Farrel Company Division of USM on December 31, 1968. The Farrel Company Division of USM manufactured machinery at plants located in Connecticut, New York, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, and Texas. Other divisions in the machinery group included the William DeBrule Division, Red Sherman Division, Lombard Plastics Machinery Division, and Standard Tool Division.

f. United Machinery Group. USM's Machinery Group included divisions known as the Machinery Division, Cutting Die Division, Medway Division, Turner Tanning Machine Division, Whitman Division, Hoague Sprague Division, and Krippendorf Calculator Co. On information and belief, Emhart Industries has succeeded to the liabilities of these USM divisions.

g. USM Special Products Group. USM maintained several sub-groups and divisions engaged in specialty manufacturing, such as Consumer Products, Gear Systems Division, Vibrac Corporation, Icon Corporation, Spiras Systems, Schaeffer Magnetics, Inc., and the Harmonic Drive Division. On information and belief, Emhart Industries succeeded to the liabilities of these USM divisions.

h. USM Fastener Group. USM maintained a fastener manufacturing group, including the Molly Fastener Division, Nylok Fastener, and the Shelton, Warren, and Nylok Divisions. On information and belief, Emhart Industries succeeded to the liabilities of these USM divisions.

i. PCI Group, Inc. On information and belief, PCI Group, Inc. was purchased by USM on January 29, 1982. USM liquidated PCI Group, Inc. on January 31, 1985, and assumed its assets and liabilities.

j. W. W. Cross Division. On information and belief, the W. W. Cross Division of USM owned and operated a facility in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, and was, at various times, a division of Emhart and PCI Group, Inc.

k. MITE Corporation. On information and belief, MITE Corporation merged with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Emhart in 1985, and the assets and liabilities of MITE were transferred to USM or its successor after September 1987.

l. Various Black & Decker Divisions. Black & Decker has engaged, through various divisions, in the manufacture and sale of electric tools, appliances, and other consumer products.

8. On information and belief, each of the defendants is either licensed to do business, transacts business, and/or contracts to supply goods or services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 in that the plaintiff and defendants are citizens of different states and the amount in controversy, exclusive of costs and interest, exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.

10. Liberty Mutual seeks, inter alia, a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201 of the respective rights and obligations of the parties under contracts of insurance issued by Liberty Mutual to the defendants and/or their current and/or former subsidiaries and/or divisions, with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims. Actual controversies exist between the parties regarding their respective rights and obligations under the Liberty Mutual policies in connection with claims of environmental pollution allegedly asserted against defendants and/or their current and/or former subsidiaries and/or divisions.

11. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a).

### **FACTS**

#### **Policies**

12. At various times relevant hereto, Liberty Mutual issued certain insurance policies to one or more of the defendants (collectively, “the Policies”).

13. Any liability coverage provided under the Policies is defined in each policy and is subject to the terms, conditions, definitions, exclusions, and limits of liability contained in each such policy.

14. Defendants have asserted or contended that Liberty Mutual is or may be obligated under the Policies to provide coverage for defendants, including a defense against, and/or indemnification with respect to the claims and/or lawsuits described below.

**Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration Claims**

15. Defendants have notified Liberty Mutual of the existence of claims and/or lawsuits (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Claims”) concerning the alleged responsibility of defendants and/or one or more of their subsidiaries or divisions, for hand/arm vibration claims arising from, or in connection with, products manufactured by defendants.

16. Liberty Mutual has fulfilled any and all of its obligations to defendants in accordance with the Policies, cost-sharing agreements among Liberty Mutual, defendants, and defendants’ other insurers (hereinafter referred to as the “cost-sharing agreement”), and/or other arrangements.

17. Liberty Mutual understands that there is a dispute as to Liberty Mutual’s obligations with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims under the Policies, cost-sharing agreements, and/or other arrangements.

18. Liberty Mutual believes that it has fulfilled any and all of its obligations under the Policies, cost-sharing agreements, and/or other arrangements with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims.

19. Defendants have disputed Liberty Mutual’s position with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims, and have asserted that defendants are entitled to a defense and/or indemnification of the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims. Liberty Mutual reasserts its position with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims.



**COUNT I**

**(Declaration of No Further Coverage Obligations)**

20. Liberty Mutual repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 19 of its Complaint, as if fully set forth herein.

21. An actual controversy exists between the parties concerning their respective rights, duties, status and/or obligations under and pursuant to the Policies, cost-sharing agreement, and/or other arrangement with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims.

22. Liberty Mutual is entitled to a declaration that it has fulfilled any and all of its obligations under the Policies, cost-sharing agreements and/or other arrangements for the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims described in paragraphs 15 through 19, supra.

**COUNT II**

**(Declaration of Set-Off of Defendants' Obligations)**

23. Liberty Mutual repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 22 of its Complaint, as if fully set forth herein.

24. In the event that defendants obtain a judgment against Liberty Mutual for damages with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims, then Liberty Mutual is entitled to, and should receive, a set-off or judgment

reduction for those damages or costs which are the responsibility of the defendants or other parties.

25. An actual controversy exists between defendants and Liberty Mutual concerning any set-off which will be due to Liberty Mutual should Liberty Mutual be found to owe damages to defendants for defense or indemnity with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims.

26. Liberty Mutual is entitled to a declaration that, in the event that defendants obtain a judgment against Liberty Mutual for damages or declaratory relief relating to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims, then Liberty Mutual is entitled to a set-off or judgment reduction for those damages and costs which are the responsibility of the defendants or others, including, but not limited to, the damages and costs associated with the following:

- (a) the policies of other insurers who have settled with defendants;
- (b) the policies of other insurers who are not parties to this lawsuit;
- (c) the periods in which defendants purchased insurance which contained exclusions for, or otherwise did not cover, the damage at issue at the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims; and
- (d) the periods in which defendants were self-insured.

### **COUNT III**

#### **(Applicability of Certain Policy Terms)**

27. Liberty Mutual repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 26 of its Complaint, as if fully set forth herein.

28. Certain of the Policies issued by Liberty Mutual include, without limitation, retrospective premium endorsements, non-cumulation of limits provisions, and/or deemer provisions. Liberty Mutual is entitled to a declaration that to the extent that it is found to have a duty to defend and/or indemnify defendants with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims, these provisions of the Policies and/or cost-sharing agreements, and any other arrangements which bear upon the amount of reimbursement owed under a Policy, are to be applied in determining the amount of money to which defendants may be entitled under any such Policy.

### **PRAYERS FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company respectfully requests that the Court:

1. Declare that Liberty Mutual has fulfilled any and all of its obligations for any of the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims described herein under any of the insurance policies issued by Liberty Mutual to defendants and/or cost-sharing agreements and/or other arrangements among Liberty Mutual, defendants, and defendants' other insurers;

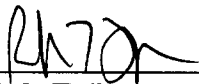
2. Declare that to the extent that Liberty Mutual is found liable to pay any monies to defendants, then Liberty Mutual is entitled to a set-off or judgment reduction for those amounts of damages and costs that are the responsibility of the defendants or others;
3. Declare that to the extent that Liberty Mutual is found liable to pay any monies to defendants that any and all policy provisions that bear upon reimbursement, including, but not limited to retrospective premium endorsements, non-cumulation of limits provisions, and/or deemer provisions contained in certain Policies be applied in determining the amount of money to which defendants may be entitled under any such Policy with respect to the Mississippi Hand/Arm Vibration claims;
4. Award Liberty Mutual its costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees, associated with this action; and
5. Grant Liberty Mutual such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Liberty Mutual demands a trial by jury for all claims so triable.

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

By its attorneys,



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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2004, I caused a copy of the foregoing document to be served by hand upon Jack R. Pirozzolo, Esq., counsel to defendants, at Willcox, Pirozzolo and McCarthy, P.C., 50 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110 pursuant to the March 19, 2004 order of the Court in Civil Action No. 96-10804-DPW pending in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts which expressly states that the defendants shall accept service and that no summons need issue from the Court.



Ralph T. Lepore, III

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